

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

IMPORTANT DIFFERENTIATED CASE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 471 et seq., the **United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan** has developed a system of differentiated case management (DCM) which provides for the assignment of all civil cases to an appropriate processing track. Litigants are permitted to indicate their preference of track selection at the Rule 16 Scheduling Conference, although the judicial officer assigned to the case will make the final determination. Discovery limitations listed below are suggested guidelines. The amount of discovery will be determined at the Rule 16 Scheduling Conference and cannot be amended without prior approval of the court.

The following criteria are factors you may wish to consider prior to indicating your track preference:

- I Voluntary Expedited** - disposition will occur in less than 9 months from the date the complaint is filed.
 - ! assignment is voluntary, parties must waive their right to trial by an Article III judge
 - ! few parties, few disputed issues, relatively low monetary sums
 - ! mutual pre-discovery disclosure of relevant information will be required
 - ! discovery deadline 90 days after Rule 16 scheduling conference, 2 depositions, 15 interrogatories per party
- II Expedited** - disposition will occur no later than 9 - 12 months from the date the complaint is filed.
 - ! few parties, few disputed factual or legal issues
 - ! parties encouraged to waive their right to trial by an Article III judge
 - ! mutual pre-discovery disclosure of relevant information is encouraged
 - ! selective use of alternative dispute resolution methods
 - ! discovery deadline 120 days after Rule 16 scheduling conference, 4 depositions, 20 interrogatories per party
- III Standard** - disposition will occur no later than 12 - 15 months from the date the complaint is filed.
 - ! multiple parties, third party claims, a number of disputed factual or legal issues
 - ! mutual pre-discovery disclosure of relevant information is encouraged
 - ! order phasing discovery may be directed if dispositive issues are raised
 - ! alternative dispute resolution methods will be utilized regularly
 - ! discovery deadline 180 days after Rule 16 scheduling conference, 8 depositions, 30 interrogatories per party
- IV Complex** - disposition will occur no later than 15 - 24 months from the date the complaint is filed.
 - ! numerous parties, complicated factual or legal issues
 - ! periodic Rule 16 scheduling conferences may be necessary
 - ! cases scheduled for trial beyond eighteen months must be certified by a judicial officer
 - ! alternative dispute resolution methods will be utilized regularly
 - ! discovery deadline 270 days after Rule 16 scheduling conference, 15 depositions, 50 interrogatories per party
- V Highly Complex** - disposition likely will occur over 24 months from the date the complaint is filed.
 - ! numerous parties or class action lawsuits, periodic Rule 16 scheduling conferences
 - ! no case will be assigned to this track without certification by a judicial officer
 - ! alternative dispute resolution methods very often utilized
 - ! discovery guidelines and limitations are at the discretion of the court
- VI Administrative**
 - ! assignment to this track will be made by the clerk's office upon review of the initial pleadings
 - ! social security, habeas corpus, bankruptcy appeals, administrative appeals, and 42 U.S.C. 1983 actions by prisoners, generally will be included on this track
 - ! civil rights actions assigned to this track are limited to 15 interrogatories and requests for production of 5 categories of documents per party unless modified by the court upon filing a motion for good cause shown